

# GRAPE VINE

Halton Golf & Country Club.

North Halton's Marion Faulkner called last week to tell us that Carol Ann cancelled the affair, which was to have a \$12 admission charge, with \$3 going directly to Whitehead-Perrott's Milton-based driving school.

We haven't been able to get a confirmation from Carol Ann, but we have received many phone calls from frustrated Actonites. Most responded to the candidate's insults with compelling arguments about the small-town charm of this community. Eileen Dix's letter in this edition is one example.

One letter, written by Eileen Hutcheson, is rather different. We hope you'll read it carefully—she makes some good points.

### Trivia winner

Congrats to Ron McKnight, winner of last week's *Trivia Challenge*. Ron phoned to tell us that the Acton Rams beat the Brockville Essos in the 1971 provincial Junior C lacrosse championships.

Ron, a 45-year-old Cook Street resident, remembers the final overtime game well—he was the announcer and scorekeeper.

As our winner, Ron will receive a library bag from the Acton Public Library and a dozen donuts from Tim Horton's.

There were two other correct callers: Wayne Deforest and Joel Petkoff. Well done!

### Deadline now Sept. 7

The Acton Fall Fair's best-decorated round bale competition deadline has been extended to Sept. 7.

You can pick up an entry from community feed and hardware stores, or from the fair prize book. Some \$200 in prizes are being offered in this new event.

### Best-ever Trunk Sale

Over 60 vendors were parked at the Hide House lot on Saturday morning, making it the biggest Trunk Sale since the *Action* group began the community garage sales back in May.

Organizer Jack Carpenter reported Monday that over 1,500 bargain-hunters showed up.

"We've tried since May to encourage people in town to come out and we've been successful in that respect. And we thank the people of Acton for their support."

Carpenter says the Trunk Sales have proved to be fun for everyone. "People are now taking pride in the town. It gets people together, and that's a big deal."

There are just five more sales to go, and three of them will be special events. This weekend is the Labour Day Sale, and of course, the Fall Fair Sale goes Sept. 17.

Carpenter suggests that people can go to the sale that day, then follow the parade down Mill Street to the Fair at the park.

To end the season, there will be a "Monster Sale" on Oct. 1.

### Kick-off canned

Carol Ann Whitehead-Perrott, the candidate for Georgetown council who upset many Actonites with recent comments that our lake was full of goose sh— and our streets full of derelicts, apparently has cancelled her campaign kick-off, scheduled for Sept. 29 at the North



**HAPPY CAMPERS!** Rec and Parks' theatre camp presented *The Chocolate Factory* at Acton High Thursday night. Back row: Sean Watson, Travis Stewart, leader Sam Simmons, Pasha Marcynuk, Ryan Snyder, Lesley Stoneham and leader Stephanie Jones. Middle row: Carly Stein, Laurie Adams, Scott Retford, Shannon Buck, Sylvia Blake and Becky Chapman. Front row: Shelley Degenais, Kelly Retford, Jesse Desjardins, Anne Byrne, Hayley Green and Ashley Marcynuk (Doug Harrison photo)

## Just pay up and shut up!

Pretty soon now the first back-to-school presents from 'ol Noel will be arriving. Yep, photo radar tickets are in the mail. I hope you're not the first one on the block to get one.

Like most NDP fiscal legislation, the new photo-radar tax is aimed directly at the working class of this province. One only has to consider the locations of the photo-radar units to reach this conclusion. The highway 400 series of roads are probably the safest we have, but that's where the money is, so that's where photo-radar is set up. The NDP seem to think that if you can afford to drive you must have a pocket to pick.

I was really put off with the condescending attitude of O.P.P. Superintendent Brittan during the first few days our new tax was in effect. "If you go the speed limit you won't have a problem," he intoned. During a radio interview he was particularly pleased with the commuters driving along, lane by lane, like a motorized version of the Stepford wives. If I were he, I wouldn't be so smug.

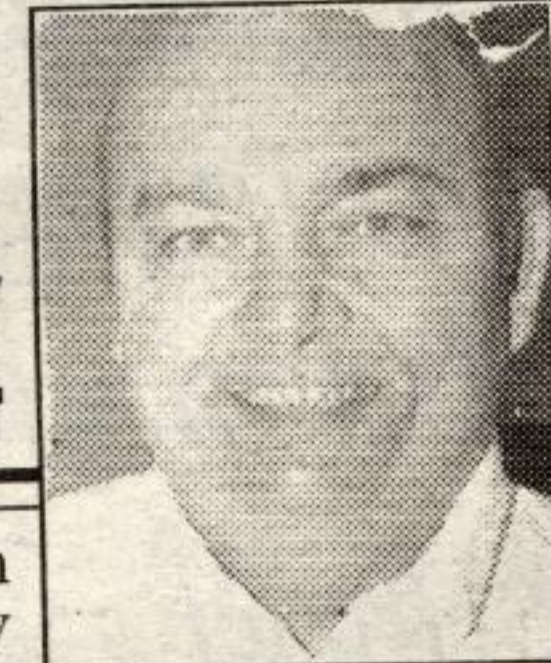
Brittan claims that photo radar will decrease speeds and therefore accidents. Let's assume, for a moment, that this happens. Let's assume that when the 50 units are unleashed in early 1995, the accident rate plummets. Wouldn't the next step be to cut the numbers of O.P.P. officers?

I mean, no speeders and fewer accidents; why would we need so many traffic cops? M.T.O. personnel could take over directing traffic at the few accidents we will have. A few specialist traffic officers could restrict their activities to investigation and re-construction of such incidents.

In fact, why do we need highly trained police officers sitting on their duffs all day playing "watch the birdie"? Surely a special constable making half as much could do this job. Why, with a little creative logic, I'll bet the government could justify getting rid of 200, 300 or 400 O.P.P. officers. The cruisers and support staff could go also. The savings would be in-

### The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



credible. At the same time, the revenue from photo-radar would exceed that previously being generated.

As an added bonus, most of the officers being terminated will be middle-aged, white guys. This could, if managed correctly, bring the government's police force into line with gender/race equity laws in one fell swoop.

Does this sound far-fetched to you? Well, would anyone have ever believed that our first NDP administration would break every government-union contract in their first term? Say, I hear Susan Eng is going to be free next spring. Having done a job on the Metro force I wonder if she'd like to "rationalize" the O.P.P. I hope Brittan is the first to go.

If photo radar was being set up on the Forks of the Credit road where those kids were killed, you could almost believe that public safety had a part in the deployment of these units. Sorry folks, the cash cows are on Hwy. 400, so just pay up and shut up.

Last Tuesday, one unit was hidden behind a bridge abutment on the 400 southbound. I've seen one at the bottom of a steep hill. Radio reports have them moving along the 401 when drivers slow down past their position. Safety, hah! The O.P.P., whom I had always respected, should change their motto to "We serve to collect."

Unfortunately, our options are limited. The NDP changed the laws to make this tax more difficult to fight. If you missed it, Jim Kenzie wrote an excellent article in the August 20 "Wheels" insert of the *Toronto Star*. If you are a photo-radar victim, I would recommend you call the *Star* and get a copy.

In essence, Kenzie is saying

that the only way to defeat this tax is to challenge every ticket in court. Yes, it will be time-consuming and expensive. Not, however, as expensive as meekly accepting this tax. The people in B.C. clogged the courts and the government backed off. If you would like to see the number of units reduced from the planned 50, tell 'ol Noel. There's no sense complaining to me, to your friends or co-workers. Who knows, if he gets a couple of hundred calls maybe 'ol Noel will represent our wishes to government instead of vice-versa.

Don't think that watching your speed will make you immune to the new tax. They never admit it but cops have quotas. Oh, they don't call them that but they're there. If each unit is supposed to get 1,600 taxes a day, they will. How will you remember that you sped up because a 20-ton dump truck was on your bumper when you get your ticket 30 days later? That's the beauty of this tax. You don't have a chance to explain yourself to a police officer at the scene. The human equation is removed. Welcome to George Orwell's Ontario.

Government employees will not be charged when photo-radar catches them speeding. Why not? Don't these people sign these vehicles out? How difficult would it be to tie these records in to the same system that sends us our tickets? Why is there one law for government unionized employees and another for the rest of us?

Wait a minute. You don't think that because the NDP is in deep doo-doo with the government union over "Rae Days" that this is an attempt to regain their support for the coming election, do you? Naaaw, the NDP says this is a safety issue. The O.P.P. say it has nothing to do with money. Surely, 'ol Noel and his cohorts wouldn't play cheap politics with a safety issue.

If you think this legislation stinks, wait and see what we're going to get over the next 12 months. It's going to be (sigh) a long, painful year.

# HEY!

*If you could invite anyone to dinner, living or not, who would it be and why?*



"Abraham Lincoln, because he's wise, funny, different and I'm a great fan of his. I would lead him into his early life and would like to hear funny stories."

*Eileen Hutcheson, Knox Street*



"My grandmother. I'd like to see her one more time. When she died it happened so fast and I couldn't get to St. Thomas to see her. If I saw her I would tell her I was sorry and I enjoyed her sense of humour."

*Karen Lockwood, Clare Court*



"William Shakespeare, because he had a grasp of human nature. I would like to know how the world then compares to the world today and talk about his work, of course."

*Sheri Leckie, R.R. 4, Acton*



"My grandfather and great-grandfather. I would like to know about my family history. My grandparents died when I was young, so I didn't know them. I'd like to hear some of their stories."

*Roy Martin, R.R. 1, Acton*